THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 60 employees have been appointed in NAFED in the last three years from September, 1988 to August, 1991 in various cadres.

(b) Among them, one employee belongs to SC category.

Consignment sale of Nigerseeds to USA

6960. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED are selling Nigerseeds to USA on consignment basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of nigerseed sold to USA on consignment basis during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the NAFED for outright export of Nigerseeds to USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NAFED has entered into Selling Agency Agreement with M/s. Universal Cooperative Inc. USA for sale of Nigerseeds through them on consignment basis. Stocks of Nigerseeds are offered at mutually agreed c.i.f. price, based on the prevailent price in USA. The shipment of Nigerseeds are made only against a Letter of Credit and thus payment is realised in advance. The consultation with the NAFED either in forward trade or on spot basis for obtaining maximum sale realisation.

(c)	*Year*	*Qty. In MTs.*	*FOB value (Rs. in lakhs)*
	1988-89	4410	513.64
	1989-90	3395	267.18
	1990-91	6834	927.34

(d) NAFED contacted all important buyers of nigerseed in USA with offers at regular intervals. Personal contacts were also made with important buyers of Nigerseeds in USA with a view to promoting business with them. Business is finalised with interested buyers on receiving response to NAFED's such offers.

Visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

6961. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the bilateral issues that figured in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India from 26-29, August, 1991, wide ranging discussions were held on various bilateral issues. The Major issues